RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAR 1 0 2008

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Laurin et al.	Atty Dkt: 2588/102
Serial No.:	10/044,779	Art Unit: 3623 **COMPLETED**
Date Filed:	01/10/02	Examiner: Romain Jeanty
Invention:	Idea Management	Date: March 10, 2008

Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to the attention of

Examiner Jeanty of the US Patent and Trademark Office, at 571-273-8300, the number provided on page 5

of the Office Action of January 29, 2008, as an informal communication, on March 10, 2008.

**Outline for Examiner Interview Scheduled for
Wednesday, March 12, 2008 (10AM)**

Dear Examiner Jeanty:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation on March 6, 2008, I am providing you

with this outline for our interview scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 10:00

AM.

In the Examiner's office action of January 29, 2008, he withdrew the 35 U.S.C. §

102 rejection over U.S. Patent 6,556,974 to D'Alessandro and applied a new 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(c) rejection against the claims over D'Alessandro in view of U.S. Patent No.

6,085,201 to Tso. The new rejection fails to consider that neither the D'Alessandro

reference nor the Tso reference teach or suggest "determining the network routing of data

from [a] structured response to business management based upon entries of the

Appl. No. 10/044,779

response," as required by the claims. The response of November 2, 2007 makes this

distinction clear. Most particularly, we believe that the Examiner failed to adequately

consider the following passage from the response:

> A second distinct feature of the present invention as claimed in the
> independent claims is that after completing the series of templates the
> system determines the routing of the idea to business management. Routing
> requires a decision to be made based on a number of options. The content
> of the user's submission is the basis for determining the one or more
> business managers that receive the user's submission. Thus, there are more
> than one possible end points (business manager) for receiving the user's
> suggestion.   In the Alessandro patent, the survey data 90 is analyzed in an
> analysis module 140 for the organization, resulting in a data set, such as
> that shown in Fig. 5. No routing decision is made for routing the survey
> information submitted by a user to a member of the business management.
> The analyzed data is collected in a database and may be presented to the
> organization as indicated in Fig. 1 by the arrow pointing to the organization
> 10. *See also Col. 6 lines 1-2*. However, no routing is contemplated by this
> arrow.
>
> The office action suggests that the Alessandro patent teaches
> determining network routing of data to business management based upon
> entries within the structured response as shown at *col. 5 lines 44-59*.
> Applicants respectfully disagrees. In this section of the Alessandro patent, a
> data gathering interface is described which may incorporate a number of
> mediums such as wide-area-networks and the Internet. Thus, a user can
> enter information using, for example, HTML, and the entries will be
> transmitted through a WAN or the Internet to the database 100. *See Col. 5
> lines 60-61*. The entered data is never routed to business management and
> further, no routing decision is made based upon the content of the
> structured response.

2

Appl. No. 10/044,779

Response of November 2, 2007, pages 13-14. Thus, the present invention is

distinguishable from the combination of D'Alessandro and Tso for at least the reason that

routing ideas to management based upon the content of a user response is not taught.

A second reason why the Examiner's obviousness rejection fails is because the

combination of the cited references would not result in the claimed invention. Tso

teaches a template engine that generates a context sensitive text message corresponding

to an input text string. *See abstract.* Based on an input string sent to the user, the system

of Tso selects one or more template messages that are contextually appropriate as a

response to the input string. *See abstract.* The user can pick one of the selected templates

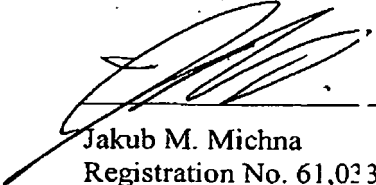and send it as a responsive text message. *See abstract.*

D'Alesandro teaches an automated employee survey system. *Col. 2, lines 60-64.*

The purpose of the survey system is to measure a predetermined set of business

performance criteria. *Id.* The performance criteria are measured using a predetermined

set of questions. *Col. 3, line 31-33.* There is no teaching or suggestion in D'Alessandro

that the set of questions are modified based on the employee responses.

The combination of D'Alessandro and Tso would result in a survey system that

selects a series of template answers for a user in response to predetermined questions, and

not a system where the templates presented to the user are selected according to the type

of suggestion categorized by the user, as required by the claims. The combination of

D'Alessandro and Tso is focused on providing template answers to predetermined

questions, whereas the focus of the claims is in providing template questions.

3

Appl. No. 10/044,779

If the Examiner has any questions, he is welcome to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at 617-443-9292.

Respectfully submitted,

Jakub M. Michna
Registration No. 61,023

BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN LLP
125 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-1618
Tel: **617 443-9292**
Fax: 617 443-0004
02588/00102 833662.1

4